GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3575
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010
EFFECT OF CONTAMINATED TOYS ON CHILD HEALTH
Abdulrahman Shri ;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the studies of some NGOs which reveal that many local and foreign made toys are contaminated with harmful chemicals which have adverse health effect on children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any agency to monitor the quality of such toys;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard including the ban on such toys?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a) & (b) A non-governmental organization namely Toxics Link conducted a study in 2006 in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and reported presence of high levels of cadmium and lead in PVC used in soft toys.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted an expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Gupta, Professor of Bio-chemistry of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi to look into the presence of harmful elements in toys. Under the guidance of the Committee, a study for examining the presence of some heavy metals and phalates in the plastic toys in the market, is underway.